

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 02493 271309Z

53-S

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 SP-03 SAB-01 SAM-01 INR-10

DODE-00 CIAE-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 /057 W

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R 271058Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2314

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2493

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, JO

SUBJ: JORDAN AND THE WEST BANK

REF: AMMAN 2305

1. AS FOOTNOTE TO REFTEL, MAJGEN VARDI, COORDINATOR FOR ISRAELI ACTIVITIES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (AND REPLACEMENT FOR MAJGEN SHLOMO GAZIT), TOLD US APRIL 26 THAT JORDAN IS ACTIVELY TRYING TO OBTAIN GREATER SUPPORT ON WEST BANK. GOJ, VARDI SAID, IS DOING THIS THROUGH A VARIETY OF MEANS: SELECTIVE PAYMENT OF SALARIES OF CIVIL SERVANTS (GOI IS ALSO PAYING SALARIES OF CIVIL SERVANTS), LOANS TO WEST BANK MUNICIPALITIES, AND THREAT OF POSSIBLE DISCRIMINATORY MEASURES AGAINST WEST BANK PRODUCTS EXPORTED TO EAST BANK. VARDI SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED MASRI FAMILY OF NABLUS IN THIS LATTER REGARD, SAYING THAT MASRI FAMILY HAD BEEN STAUCH HASHIMITE SUPPORTERS BUT HAD RECENTLY BEEN WAVERING IN THEIR SUPPORT OF HUSSEIN. JORDAN WAS ALSO TRYING TO INFLUENCE ARABIC PRESS ON WEST BANK AND IN EAST JERUSALEM INTO TAKING MORE HASIMITE LINE BUT WITHOUT TOO MUCH SUCCESS. FINALLY, GOJ HAD BEEN TRYING TO WIN WEST BANK STUDENT SUPPORT BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS.

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 02493 271309Z

2. COMMENTING ON REPORTS THAT HUSSEIN MIGHT RENOUNCE HIS CLAIM TO WEST BANK IN FAVOR OF PLO, VARDI SAID THAT HE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY HUSSEIN WOULD TAKE THIS ACTION. HUSSEIN'S RECENT VISIT TO EGYPT HAD CONFIRMED ISRAELI BELIEF THAT HUSSEIN WOULD NOT RENOUNCE HIS CLAIM AND HAD SHOWN THAT HUSSEIN WAS USING THIS PLOY AS MEANS OF EXERTING PRESSURE ON ISRAEL IN ORDER BRING ABOUT SPEEDY NEGOTIATIONS. VARDI SAID THAT A FEW DELEGATIONS OF WEST BANK NOTABLES HAD MADE VISITS TO AMMAN IN ORDER TO URGE THAT GOJ NOT GIVE UP WEST BANK BUT VARDI ADDED THAT HE BELIEVED GOJ WAS SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTED THAT MORE NOTABLES HAD NOT MADE THE PILGRIMAGE.

3. VARDI SAID THAT GENERAL POLITICAL TREND ON WEST BANK WAS TO HOPE FOR AN INDIGENOUS PALESTINIAN SOLUTION TO WEST BANK PROBLEM BUT THIS WAS MATCHED BY A GROWING AWARENESS THAT THERE MUST BE SOME LINK WITH JORDAN AFTER ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. THERE WAS CERTAIN DEGREE OF SYMPATHY FOR PLO ON WEST BANK, VARDI SAID, BUT THERE WAS ALSO FEAR AMONG IMPORTANT ELEMENTS THAT IF PLO WERE TO COME TO POWER, "KLASHNIKOV DEMOCRACY" WOULD FOLLOW.

4. COMMENT: VARDI HAS SERVED IN WEST BANK MILITARY GOVERNMENT SINCE 1967 AND IS CONSIDERED KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVER OF WEST BANK AFFAIRS. HE ASSUMED HIS CURRENT DUTIES APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS AGO.  
KEATING

NOTE BY OCT: DISTRIBUTION PER MR. KURZE, S/S-O.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, POPULAR SUPPORT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 APR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974TELAV02493  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740100-1134  
**From:** TEL AVIV  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 88  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** AMMAN 2305  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JORDAN AND THE WEST BANK  
**TAGS:** PFOR, IS, JO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005